

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC)**

Monday, February 3, 2020

**Held at the
City of Bellflower
City Hall, Green Room
16600 Civic Center Drive
Bellflower, Ca 90706**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Arrighi called the meeting to order at approximately 1:32 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was recited by all who were in attendance.

3. ROLL CALL

Voting Members Present

Vice Chair Dan Arrighi	Mr. Vincent Chang (for Supervisor Solis)
Ms. Gary Boyer	Mr. Stan Chen (for Mr. Johnson)
Ms. Liz Reilly	Ms. Joe Kalmick
Mr. Denis Bertone	Mr. Josh Nelson (for Secretary Crowfoot)
Mr. Ali Saleh	Mr. John Bishop (for Mr. Blumenfeld)
Mr. Roberto Uranga	Mr. Chris Lief (for Ms. Bosler)
Mr. Julian Juarez (for Mark Pestrella)	
Mr. Tylor Bonanno-Curley (for Senator Gonzalez)	

Non-Voting Members Present

Members Absent

Chair Frank Colonna	Mr. John Walsh (for John Donnelly)
Ms. Margaret Clark	Mr. Sean Woods (for Ms. Mangat)
Ms. Sandra Massa-Lavitt	Mr. Jerry Perez (for Mr. Moore)
Mr. Ed DeMesa (for Ms. Colloton)	Ms. Christy Suppes (for Mr. Silsby)
Ms. Marisol Barajas (for Assembly member P. O'Donnell)	

Staff Present

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
David Edsall, Jr., Deputy Attorney General
Salian Garcia, Accounting Analyst
Marybeth Vergara, Project Manager
Joseph Gonzalez, Project Manager

Sally Gee, Project Manager
Jennifer Fierro, Executive Secretary

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

5. Approval of Minutes

Board Member Reilly noted two typos and was assured by Board Secretary Fierro that corrections would be addressed.

Ms. Reilly motioned to approve the November 18, 2019, minutes. Mr. Urnaga seconded the motion. Board voted 12 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstentions. Minutes were approved.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no report given.

7. DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

There was no report given.

8. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

A. Legislative

Mark Stanley gave an overview and update on a few State and Federal legislative bills.

Mr. Stanley started by explaining that AB 968, authored by Christina Garcia, went from the Education Committee into Assembly Appropriations Committee. While RMC will be checking in with the Assemblymember for status, he believes the bill might be suspended.

Mr. Stanley briefly explained that AB 1269, authored by Blanca Rubio, is a plan to replace Pioneer Park in the City of El Monte with a new park. Although it is anticipated that the bill will be suspended.

Mr. Stanley reported that AB 1694, authored by Patrick O'Donnell, is anticipated to receive a new bill number and it will be tracked with updates to be reported to the Board as it moves forward.

Mr. Stanley reviewed SB 367, authored by Ben Hueso, and explained this provides opportunities to use funds for many educational programs K-12. This bill can also provide the LCWA with collaborative projects with matching funds.

Mr. Stanley collectively reviewed AB 352, authored by Eduardo Garcia, SB 45, Ben Allen, and SB 1298, authored by Kevin Mullin, are all water bonds that can potentially provide the next round of funding opportunities for RMC and will be monitored closely for updates to the Board.

Mr. Stanley explained that Federal Legislation, S. 3704, authored by Kamala Harris, is an expansion for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument and extension along the San Gabriel River possibly down to Whittier Narrows. Due to the high volume of visitors to the park there may be a possible shift of representation from the Forest Service to a National Recreation area. This bill passed over to the Natural Resources Committee but was amended, RMC will provide updates as the bill progresses.

B. Capital Outlay and Support Budget

Salian Garcia explained that the revenue and expenditure report included information on the RMC's capital outlay, and Lower Los Angeles River-specific projects and reflects balances as of December 31, 2019. There is one contract and three grants still encumbrance with the State Controllers Office. After total appropriations, total encumbered, total approved pending encumbered, and total projects pending board approval the total available for encumbrance and expenditure is \$112,655,243.

Ms. Garcia then reviewed the Support & Operations Budget for Fiscal Year 2018/2019 and stated that the total number of projects excludes any potential projects that are awaiting board approval. She explained that even though we are more than halfway into the fiscal year, RMC has not been over budget with only about a quarter of budget spent. Many of these projects are contracted through the Internal Contracting Unit such as CSF or Human Resources and bills RMC quarterly so many expenditures would be seen at the end of the year.

C. Cumulative Grant Project Status Summary

Ms. Garcia reported these are projects identified by funding source, Proposition 1, 40, 50, and 84 and reflects changes since June 2019. As of this date RMC has authorized 253 total projects, which consist of 201 completed projects, 38 are certified, 3 approved and awaiting encumbrance, and with the remaining balance of 11 withdrawn projects.

D. Project and Liaison Activities

Mr. Stanley gave updates about the various projects and activities for RMC.

Mr. Stanley stated the River Ranger Program is both an RMC and WCA funded project that is anticipated to establish three (3) types of activities: public safety, educational opportunities and interpretive elements as well as maintenance along the 51 miles of river. There are intentions to establish Reach Zones by the end of the summer, one (1) of which has received funding.

Mr. Stanley explained that the Lower Los Angeles Working Group holds a committee, the Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) that meets to review projects initiated by the RMC along the Lower half of the Los Angeles River. The IAG provides commentary prior to RMC evaluation of projects. The next meeting of the IAG will take place February 20, 2020, at the Compton Creek Natural Park.

Mr. Stanley provided the Board with a list of city-wide and street projects that are funded through IRWMP with several that tracked in conjunction with projects that are currently funded by the RMC. This includes the Bassett High Stormwater Capture Project which

mirrors a currently funded project and the Catalina Desalination Storage and Distribution Project that is of great interest given the RMC opportunity for expansion.

Mr. Stanley stated that a final draft of the Los Angeles River Master Plan was submitted to the Steering Committee last month. Los Angeles County Public Works department is seeking comment from the committee members and is anticipating releasing the draft Spring of 2020. This final draft outlines the Master Plan for the entire 51 miles and the activities that RMC has planned for the lower half of the Los Angeles River.

Mr. Stanley mentioned the Willowbrook Walking Path, RMC14003, in Compton Creek has a target completion date in Summer 2020 and ties into two other projects that were funded by RMC near McArthur Park and Washington High School. This provides various opportunities to enhance the area along Compton Creek.

Mr. Stanley explained the Recycled Water Campus, San Gabriel River Parkway, RMC17004, had a successful completion and that RMC provided funding for the educational and interpretive elements.

Mr. Stanley informed the Board that West Coyote Hills Open Space Acquisition, RMC17007, was able to obtain all funds needed to complete acquisitions of two (2) out of the four (4) neighborhoods. It is anticipated that escrow will close in May 2020. He stated he would continue to provide updates and graphics of the open space.

Mr. Stanley stated the Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment Project, RMC17009, had experienced a delay in design and construction but is anticipated to move forward and get back on track. The grant was extended at the December 2019 RMC Board Meeting, to ensure that funds would not expire.

Mr. Stanley explained the Sleepy Lagoon Planning Project, RMC 18003, is located along the LA River in the Commerce area. The team has hosted several community meetings and is finally wrapping them up, he will be providing updates and schematics at the next Board Meeting.

Mr. Stanley stated the Acquisition of the LA River Incubator Site, RMC 18008, or Green Incubator will serve as a catalyst for implementation of plans to build capacity, coordination and collaboration within the community and with Stakeholders. Its purpose is to serve like a business incubator comprised of environmental and water enhancement projects. RMC is looking at a site-specific location around the confluence of the LA River and Rio Hondo. Updates will be provided at future Board Meetings.

Mr. Stanley explained that the Duck Farm was visited by State Parks in November 2019 regarding an application submitted to them requesting funding for Duck Farm House enhancements, landscaping and vegetable gardens. He anticipates hearing back from State Parks regarding awarded funds later this year and invited the RMC Board to tour the Duck Farm prior to construction completion.

Ms. Stanley moved onto the Vasquez Habitat and Open Space project, explaining that escrow for acquisition of 40 acres of the Vasquez Property closed last week. This parcel is located near the Azusa Wilderness park and there is still 20 additional acres being considered for acquisition.

Mr. Stanley ended his review of projects with the South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque dos Rios and explained that construction for this project is also almost completed. They are finishing with the metal work on the overlook with a possibility for a second overlook which funding for is being investigated. The landscaping should be completed sometime in Spring 2020 and he offered the Board an opportunity to tour the location prior to completing construction.

Board Member Clark asked if Mr. Stanley knew how much stormwater would be captured at a time? Mr. Stanley responded that he did not know the answer to that but that he could get an answer for her.

REGULAR CALENDAR

9. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE DUCK FARM PHASE IA IMPLEMENTATION (RMC3609).**
10. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE DUCK FARM PHASE 1A – STEP 2 PROJECT (RMC18002).**
11. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY TO RATIFY A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT AND SERVICE ORDER WITH GEOSYNTEC CONSULTING TO PROVIDE CONCEPT DESIGN AND PERMITTING PRE-COORDINATION SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY CULTURAL ARTS CENTER IN SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES (RMC19509).**
12. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROPOSITION 1 GRANT TO THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND FOR THE CENTRAL JEFFERSON HIGH GREEN ALLEY MULTI-BENEFIT STORMWATER PROJECT (RMC19007).**

Mr. Bishop motioned to approve this item. Mr. Bertone seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 12; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

13. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROPOSITION 68 GRANT TO THE CITY OF COVINA FOR THE BANNA COMMUNITY PARK PROJECT (RMC19008).**

Sally Gee recommended that the Board approve a grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the City of Covina for the Banna Community Park Project as this grant received a score of 80.76% and meets the standard for recommendation. The Banna Community Park project will develop a new 2.0-acre neighborhood park in the City of Covina along Banna Avenue at Cypress Street and would be within walking distance from a disadvantaged residential neighborhood. She shared the Cities concept design and explained that local residents and students expressed strong support for native and drought tolerant plants, an abundance of trees, passive recreation trails, open space, and fitness areas; this design would also incorporate bioswale green spaces and underground retention basins for groundwater replenishment and treatment, and pollinator gardens to attract wildlife including outdoor

elements like an outdoor classroom and lab, fitness zones, and a dog play area. Ms. Gee referenced the updated budget and stated it included contingency of RMC funds and that this did not change the requested amount of \$1,000,000, they are committed to providing additional funds of up to \$650,000. The schedule of the park's funds outlined how the City has completed designs and at least 95% of construction drawings for the park and will be awarding their construction bid later this month. Construction of the park is expected to complete by September 2020.

City Manager of Covina, Chris Morelo, addressed the Board and thanked them for their consideration as the park has many beneficial elements for the community.

Board Member Reilly asked where the second school was, they had mentioned it was located near the proposed park. Mr. Morelo replied that it lies to the west of the park and is an elementary school.

Mr. Saleh motioned to approve this item. Ms. Reilly seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 12; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROPOSITION 68 GRANT TO FROM LOT TO SPOT FOR THE LOWER LA RIVER POCKET PARK PROJECT (RMC19009).

Marybeth Vergara recommended the Board approve a grant in the amount of \$332,490 to From Lot to Spot for the Lower LA River Pocket Park Project located in the City of Cudahy. Although this grant received a score of 78.66 out of a total 100 points and does not meet the threshold of 80% but because this project is in the Lower LA River it qualifies for specific funding to be allocated to this project and therefore was brought to the Board for consideration.

Representatives of From Lot to Spot, Maria DeLeon and Jessica Cervantes provided a presentation and stated that this project would convert a 4800 sq. ft. vacant lot into a community designed, nature inspired park featuring reclaimed irrigation, native vegetation and stormwater catchment features. The project design includes sustainable, environmentally conscious features and include utilizing recycled materials such as recycled concrete pavers with permeable pebbles to allow water to percolate into the ground, a low-water use plant palette that will foster a natural habitat for plants and insects which were chosen by the community. The funding requested amount of \$332,490, would be used towards design construction, community engagement monitoring and completion of the park. They explained that this site has been vacant for almost 40 years and is only 600 ft. from the LA River and is adjacent to Park Ave Elementary School. Once the park is completed a joint use (JPA) between the Los Angeles Unified School District and the City of Cudahy will be formed to maintain the park site.

Ms. Reilly motioned to approve this item. Mr. Bertone seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 12; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

15. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROPOSITION 68 GRANT TO THE CONSERVATION CORPS OF LONG BEACH FOR DEVELOPING THE LAKEWOOD EQUESTRIAN CENTER AND SURROUNDING OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN (RMC19010).

Ms. Gee introduced the project and recommended that the Board approve a grant in the amount of \$312,015, to the Conservation Corps of Long Beach for developing the Lakewood Equestrian Center & Surrounding Open Space Master Plan.

A representative from the Conservation Corps of Long Beach, Kayla Kelly-Slatten, gave the report and explained the plans for the Lakewood Equestrian Center & Surrounding Open Space Master Plan (Master Plan) would help re-envision a 60-acre open space region that would include the Lakewood Equestrian Center, Rynerson Park, the San Gabriel River Trail, and Camp Fire Camp Shiwaka. Completion of this park has the potential to entertain a multitude of recreational and educational activities, connect the local community to the outdoors, and host best management practices through activities such as environmental education, demonstration gardens, therapeutic riding, leisure recreation, and energy conservation. The plan includes use and renovation of the house onsite as a possible historic building and intends to include solar options and EV Charging stations on the grounds. She stated that because of the high amount of animal waste produced at the Equestrian Center, there are also major opportunities for storm water control and water construction using nature-based solutions. Additionally, visitor access to the different sites are very limited. Some site access points are limited by the streets, and others are blocked by fencing. Current public access to the Center is limited to Carson Street with no direct connection to the San Gabriel River Trail System, while Rynerson Park can only be accessed by vehicles from Studebaker Road and does not connect to Carson Street; the goal of the Master Plan would connect all three (3) parcels.

Although there is currently no plan set, in collaboration with the City of Lakewood, the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI), Camp Fire Camp Shiwaka, and DakeLuna Consultants they will complete a Master Plan. Together they will facilitate community outreach projects such as Project Steering Committee, made up of neighborhood stakeholders and community leaders, creating a Technical Advisory Committee with Conservation Corps of Long Beach responsible for the oversight and management of developing the Master Plan and facilitating the coordination. The timeline for developing the Master Plan will be from January 2020 – June 2021. Within those 18 months it is predicted to have park initiation with in the first three (3) months, a large portion would include stakeholder engagement, and a developed Master Plan after the second half.

Ms. Clark motioned to approve this item. Mr. Bertone seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 12; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

16. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA COUNCIL, BOYS SCOUTS FOR AMERICA FOR THE TRASK SCOUT RESERVATION WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (RMC18006).

Joseph Gonzalez recommended that the Board approve a grant amendment for the Trask Scout Reservation Water System Improvement and Enhancement Project, this would increase the budget in the amount of \$90,200 for a grant total of \$221,200 and extending the performance period to September 30, 2020. The original request (\$112,800) focused on developing a water system compliance plan to determine the camp's water system needs and provide an engineer estimate of costs. However, the current water system is out of compliance with the State of California Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, who determined that the tap water is not safe for drinking, cooking, hand washing or bathing. Therefore, GLAAC BSA is requesting an amendment to their original grant to

support updating their water system at Camp Trask and would include environmental compliance as part of planning for the project.

Mr. Gonzalez explained that the current expectation is to replace a portion of the existing water treatment with a consolidated design that meets water quality standards and install a 100,000-gallon capacity tank that will replace their current 25,000-gallon tank. The environmental documentation would also require permitting and approvals from City of Monrovia and U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Angeles National Forest office as well as US Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit, and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board 401 Certification.

Board Member Bertone asked what proposition would funding come from? And if this is in the City of Monrovia? Mr. Gonzalez responded that funding would come from Proposition 68, Association and Implementation projects and that the site location is in the City of Monrovia at the edges of the forest.

Board Member Clark asked how much the City of Monrovia was charging for the permitting? Representative of the Greater Los Angeles Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, Paulina Naphian stated they had received commitment from the City to provide services in-kind such as technical advice and engineers and would then look at the total fees to see how they could help.

Board Member Bishop asked what kind of treatment is proposed? Site Manager, Anthony Villalobos, stated there is currently a sand filtration system that is currently out of date, but there are ways to update the system.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve this item. Ms. Clark seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 12; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

17. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION FOR THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE FACILITATION AND SUPPORT PROJECT (RMC17024).

Mr. Gonzalez recommended that the Board authorize a grant amendment to the National Forest Foundation (NFF) for the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative increasing the budget by \$40,078.50 to a total of \$66,009.50 and extending the performance period through March 31, 2021. After having met the criteria and received a score of 80% this project has been brought forth for approval. He explained that the first phase of funding was awarded from remaining Proposition 84 funds while the second phase of funding for this amendment would come from Proposition 68 funds. He stated that the additional funding and time request to RMC is needed in order to complete and facilitate implementation of the SGMCC Action Plan and that the Final Action Plan is expected to be finalized by March 2020 and implementation will be a primary objective for the Collaborative throughout 2020.

A representative of the NFF, Dania Gutierrez, commented that the NFF facilitated the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaboration that started with receiving commentary from their stakeholders regarding the San Gabriel National Monument Management Plan. She stated that now those discussions have concluded it is time for action, and NFF intends to provide the structure and guidance necessary for the action plan to be successful.

Board Member Clark commented that she has been a member of the Collaborative for four (4) years now and recalled when the National Monument was on the chopping block. It had received funding from Judy Chu and the monument was spared, but it is time to do something positive with it.

Mr. Bishop motioned to approve this item. Ms. Clark seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 12; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

18. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT AMENDMENT AND BUDGET AUGMENTATION TO THE CITY OF POMONA FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHIL AND NELL SOTO PARK PROJECT (RMC18011).

Ms. Vergara was excited to announce that the project being presented was set to be completed that same weekend. She stated RMC had provided funding for acquisition of the land out of Proposition 84, as well as funding for the development and implementation of the park out of Proposition 1. She recommended the Board approve a grant amendment in the amount of \$186,257, for the Phil and Nell Soto Park and an extension of the performance period from January 31, 2020 to June 30, 2020. The requested funds would cover items related to construction due to items identified in the previous Grant Agreement having received increased bids for such items. She informed the Board that a program for the Grand Opening of the park was included in the packet.

Construction Manager, Angel Puentes, commented that the City of Pomona was grateful for the Boards continued support of the project. He stated construction started in October 2018 and as of December 2019 it had reached 98% completion. Although, he explained there is still a 90-day maintenance period and they are waiting to receive an order of granite material coming from overseas. He then invited the Board to attend the grand opening of the park February 8th.

Board Member Bertone asked what the original grant amount requested was? Ms. Vergara responded it was \$1.5 million and when the land appraised for less than expected the City of Pomona came back to the Board to allocate the additional funds for the demolition.

Board Member Reilly asked if the materials listed on page one (1), were the items the city requested funding for? Ms. Vergara responded that it was for the items listed 1-4. There is an additional report that goes into further detail about the costs and reason for extension.

Vice Chair Arrighi commented that Phil and Nell Soto's grandson, Patrick Soto, is an employee of the SGV Water Company and worked under him; and that he moved on to serve as the Conservation Board Coordinator. So, Mr. Arrighi has a fond connection with the Soto family. He described Phil and Nell as strong people that worked hard for their community. They were both Council Members and Assembly Members, and Nell moved on to becoming a Senator while Phil formed his own Public Relations Firm.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve this item. Mr. Saleh seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 12; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

19. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE GREEN REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT NETWORK (GREEN) PROJECT (RMC15112).

Mr. Gonzalez recommended that the Board approve a grant amendment to the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) to complete a budget realignment and timeline extension for the Green Regional Environmental Enhancement Network (GREEN) Project with the expectation for WCA to complete the attached realignment of tasks and budget by April 30, 2021. He stated that when this grant was initially approved by the Board, staff recognized that this project would be responding to the needs of the region and would directly support implementation projects and therefore the specifics of the proposed deliverables and budget details may require adjustment during the grant term and may change. WCA's participation in a variety of regionally important planning and project implementation efforts helped to further the goals and objectives of the GREEN program and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Their contributions to the GREEN program include 'Stakeholder Participation and Stewardship Building' will realize budget items that support and further the GREEN Program; 'Develop GREEN Portal Design Parameters and Specifications' being a major deliverable set of web tools and web maps that will support regions in identifying regional and local watershed infrastructure projects; and include a special focus on 'Sustainable Equestrian Center Specifications and Design' including the Duck Farm with an existing equestrian center.

Mr. Uranga motioned to approve this item. Ms. Clark seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 12; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

20. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Board member comments.

21. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

Mr. Stanley announced that the next meeting would be held March 16, 2020, at the Garvey Center in the City of Rosemead.

22. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colonna at approximately 2:55 p.m.

X

Frank Colonna
Governing Board Chair

X

Jennifer Fierro
Board Secretary